6267 Castille Ct.,
Orleans. K1C 1X4

Mr. Richard Allen, MPP,
Disabled Persons Critic,
Queen's Park,
Toronto.

22 February 1989

Dear Mr. Allen,

Thank you for your interest in issues arising from international recognition of environmental sensitivity disorders. As you will understand from your work with prison guards, the biggest problem we have is getting various authorities to accept that our awareness of the disorders is other than illusory. The unhealthy level of skepticism on this issue, fostered for years by Ministry of Health statements, has driven some to suicide, as documentation provided to David Reville's office would corroborate.

I've enclosed a copy of Richard Patten's letter, in which he suggests Elinor Caplan should meet with me to discuss damages caused to us by statements from her officials, F.Y.I.

Also enclosed is a copy of a brief given to the federal Secretariat for Disabled persons, written under contract to them. Section V outlines some of the things some provincial ministries are doing while Ms Caplan hides behind the conveniently large myth that research is needed to establish diagnostic and treatment protocols, before recognition of the disorders can be given.

The Minister recently allocated more than a half million dollars in taxpayer's money to do research that has already been done in Britain and some other countries. She is spending health dollars on what may be a transport issue...re-inventing the wheel.

Nova Scotia has a much more economical and humane approach. They've sent a doctor to Britain to learn clinical techniques so that people can be treated for the wide range of disorders lumped under the general (and unscientific) term "environmental sensitivity".

The expenditure is smaller, the rewards greater and more related to the immediate needs of people affected rather than those of the research community.

You will know that David Reville and Linda Pim are both working on this issue, and I've sent a copy of this letter to them. But the experience with Remo Mancini's office has been so priceless that I felt compelled to share it with you.

It's as precious as the story of Alice in Wonderland....

When I call his office they say "that's an important concern", and ask me to write.

When I write the Minister answers questions other than the one I've asked about. When I write again, and then again, he replies with yet other unrelated answers.

When I discuss the Minister's letters with the Office for Disabled Persons they tell me it is clear this "very important concern" has not been answered in any of Mr. Mancini's replies, but say I must write again if I want the question answered.

When discussing the issue with Mr. Mancini's Executive Assistant for the third time, when I start explaining the concern, she says she is already familiar with it. But when I mention that the concern has not been addressed, she says she is unfamiliar with the concern and will have to look it up in the correspondence file.

When I remind her that this is the third conversation we've had on the matter, and that in eight months the people she has said will get back to me have not done so, and again ask that the concerns be answered by Mr. Mancini, she complains about spending an hour discussing the concern the first time we talked, (during which time she said she understood the concern, and would act on it).

In his last letter to me, Mr. Mancini spends two pages describing all the things the government is doing to address the concern, and then says the concern cannot be recognized.

While I have written concerned about damages caused when the Ministry of Health labelled people disabled by environmental sensitivities as being deluded, he writes back about damages caused by the disability itself, (which he says he cannot recognize, but will treat as one disabling Ontario residents).

His Executive Assistant, Sandra Anstey, (who gets antsy if called "Sandy"), says I should really be dealing with the Ministry of Health, and that I should contact them. And when I point out that I have told her several times that I am asking for help precisely because the Ministry of Health has ignored the concern, and continues to conduct itself in a way that causes unnecessary damages to people with sensitivities, she says it's still a Ministry of Health matter.

Then, when I point out that the reason her Ministry exists is to help people having problems with the government on disability related matters, she agrees, and says the proper thing is for her Minister to bring up the concern with the Minister of Health. But when I ask if the concern has been referred to Health, she says no, and when I ask if it will be referred to Ms Caplan by Mr. Mancini, she says she doesn't know.

I've had this disability all my life, and I managed to survive, have a career, and even win awards in my field. That is until the Ministry of Health became involved. Then my credibility and career as a journalist was severely affected by statements from health authorities to the effect that I am deluded in the knowledge of being affected by substances in the environment.

I became angry when I saw what the province was doing to people with this disability, and I decided to fight back. So far that's cost me a quarter million in lost income, and thirty thousand in direct costs, (not including overhead), raised by part-time work.

I know you will be familiar with the problems described on the previous page. I know this because every time Mr. Peterson is asked a question in the Legislature it's an excuse for a skating party.

Mr. Peterson was skating on the Rideau Canal during Winterlude, but I hear he didn't go very far. Perhaps that's because you have to be able to skate more or less in a straight line.

Thank you for wandering through this with me.

Please have a nice day.

Sincerely,

Chris Brown
(613) 837 7173

cc. David Reville
Linda Pim
David Agnew